



Happy Holidays!

Hello!

Welcome back to my “periodic” newsletter! Full disclosure... I thought I could manage a “monthly” cadence, but then came a late October trip to Tuscany (yes, Italy), followed by Brussels (next door in Belgium), a serious case of jetlag, and a wicked cold. You see where this is going, right?

Bottom line: I’m still thrilled to stay connected with you in this unfiltered format.

And hey, October’s newsletter stats weren’t too shabby—52% of you opened it (and presumably read it), with only 3% unsubscribing. Not bad, considering the average open rate is 15-25% according to the experts.

By now, you’re probably finishing up Thanksgiving leftovers (for my U.S. readers) or diving headfirst into holiday prep.

Either way, Happy Holidays!



Cheers *Laura Hatcher*



Small Business Saturday Feature

30 November was Small Business Saturday and the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (a long name for the Alexandria Small Business Office) featured my business on their social media outlets and website.

This recognition made me appreciate how far I’ve come in my entrepreneurial journey. As a military brat and Veteran, I’ve always struggled with answering the simple question, “Where are you from?” I never imagined that we would make Alexandria our “hometown” after retiring, but I’m thankful that we did.

[Read More](#)

A Veteran’s Day Tribute

During our recent trip to Europe with my spouse and best friend, I embarked on a unique genealogical adventure.

Armed with an international driver’s license (that no one checked), a rental car, and a three-hour drive from Brussels, we set out for a small village in the southern Netherlands.

Read the blog entry to discover what I found laid to rest in the Canadian Military Cemetery in Groesbeek, Netherlands.

[Read Blog](#)



Tuscany Adventure: Planes, Trains & Automobiles

Our recent trip to Tuscany, hosted by Capital Photography Center and Il Chioistro workshops, was the perfect way to recharge and get back to the basics of photography.

My spouse, best friend, and I made the journey together. While my husband joined a painting workshop, my friend and I focused on capturing the beauty of Tuscany through our cameras.

Getting there was no small feat—literally planes, trains, and automobiles were involved. We flew from DC to Florence, where we accidentally figured out how to take the tram to the main train station. From there, it was a 90-minute train ride to Siena, where we waited in an absurdly long taxi line just to get our luggage two miles up a hill to our quaint hotel.

The next day, once settled, we spent the week at the beautiful Dievole Wine Resort. Each day started with an amazing breakfast, the occasional sunrise shoot (when it wasn't raining), followed by trips to incredible spots like the Duomo Siena, San Gimignano, Pienza, and Radda. The scenery, the experiences, and the creativity made it a trip to remember. We closed out the journey with three days in Brussels before heading home.



[Tuscany Video](#)

[Brussels Video](#)

Hair Diaries

Did you know this past summer I started a hair diary? A what, you ask?

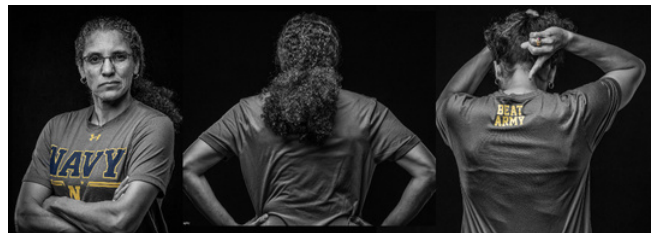
It's basically a dedicated blog to explore the various stories, challenges, stereotypes and personal journeys people have experienced with their hair.

I'd love to hear about your hair story please consider sharing it by taking my survey.



[Hair Diaries](#)

On The Horizon



If you've made it this far, thank you! Here's a peek at what's on the horizon:

By the time you're reading this, we will be approaching the 125th Army-Navy game on 14 Dec 2024. Go Navy! Beat Army! I'll be watching it from the comfort of my home, I only needed to photograph it once in my lifetime, check out my 2022 experience [here](#).

I plan to shut down studio operations mid December to work on the business instead of in the business. The end of the year always brings huge administrative tasks to close out the past year while preparing for a new business year.

Hope you have an enjoyable holiday season!

Thank you for reading!
Keep in touch!